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PROGRAMME BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM 1992-1993

REPORT ON THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT

Programme budget implications of draft resolutions submitted to the General Assembly for adoption by the Second Committee in its report contained in document A/47/719

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

1. At its 51st meeting, held on 16 December 1992, the Second Committee adopted without a vote seven draft resolutions, as contained in its report (A/47/719). Three of them would have programme budget implications for the 1992-1993 programme budget: "Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa" (A/C.2/47/L.46); "Convening of a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States" (A/C.2/47/L.47) (as orally amended) and "Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development" (A/C.2/47/L.61) (as orally amended). A statement of programme budget implications of those three draft resolutions was before the Committee in document A/C.2/47/L.90.

2. The activities requested under these three draft resolutions would be under the responsibility of the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. 1/

3. Requirements for the implementation of the requested activities beyond 1993 would be treated in the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1994-1995.

4. Sectior I of the present statement summarizes the proposed activities and estimates additional requirements. Sections II to IV provide a detailed description of the programme budget implications of each draft resolution.

5. It should be noted that after the Second Committee adopted the above draft resolutions, three additional vacant posts (one D-2, one D-1 and one P-4) were identified in the Secretariat for redeployment to accommodate partially the staff requirements estimated in document A/C.2/47/L.90. These posts are proposed for redeployment to the ad hoc secretariat of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee called for in draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.46. These redeployments would result in a reduction of the requirements for staff resources amounting to $209,000.

I. SUMMARY OF PROPOSED ACTIVITIES AND ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR THE YEAR 1993

6. The new activities are summarized as follows:

(a) An international convention to combat desertification: a single negotiating process would be established to elaborate a convention to combat desertification in the countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, as recommended by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED). In that context, substantive support would be provided to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee with a view to having the convention ready by June 1994. The Negotiating Committee would also need assistance for the preparation of a progress report on the elaboration of the convention to be submitted to the Commission on Sustainable Development. A multidisciplinary panel of experts would be established to assist the ad hoc secretariat in the elaboration of documents for consideration by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee. A report on programme implementation in relation to the negotiating process would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

(b) Arrangements for servicing the Commission on Sustainable Development and for the preparation of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States:

(i) Substantive support would be provided to the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and the High-level Advisory Board to be established in 1993 in order to promote the objectives of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and monitor the implementation of Agenda 21. 2/ A report on the programme implementation of Agenda 21 would be submitted to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

(ii) Substantive support would also be provided to the Preparatory Committee for the First Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, to be convened in April 1994. In addition, the Secretariat would contribute to the preparation of the regional technical meetings on sustainable development of small island developing countries, to be convened in 1993.

7. The additional requirements for these new activities in 1993 are summarized below:

Draft resolution symbol	Title of the draft resolution	Staff requirements		Operational requirements including those for public information activities	Conference-servicing requirements (at full cost)	Notes
		Posts	Dollars a/			
A/C.2/47/L.46	Establishment of an intergovernmental negotiating committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa	One D-2 One D-1 One P-5 One P-4 One P-3 Four GS (Other Level)	230 000	899 000	1 606 600	See paragraphs 18-29 for details
A/C.2/47/L.47	Convening of a global conference on the sustainable development of small island developing States	24 w/m of Professional and 30 w/m of GS (Other Level) staff b/	- b/	- b/	326 400	See paragraphs 48-51 for details
A/C.2/47/L.61	Institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development	Two D-1 One P-5 Two P-4 Four GS (Other Level)	380 000	818 000	620 400	See paragraphs 31-46 for details
	Total	One D-2 Three D-1 Two P-5 Three P-4 One P-3 Eight GS (Other Level)	610 000	1 717 000	2 553 400	

Note: w/m = work-months.

a/ Represents costs of general temporary assistance funds for six months in 1993.

b/ The requirements relating to the activities under draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.47 would be met from the resources proposed in the context of implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.61.

8. It is estimated, with regard to the staff requirements as summarized in paragraph 7 above, that a total of one D-2, three D-1, two P-5, three P-4, one P-3 and eight General Service (Other Level) posts would be needed in 1993. The functions of these posts are described in sections II and III below. It would be the intention of the Secretary-General to place the above secretariat support structure within the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. The above requirements would be accommodated through the internal redeployment of posts. At this stage, a D-2, a D-1, a P-4 and a P-3 are available for such redeployment. The other posts mentioned above, and, if necessary, additional staff resources, would be identified from within the new Department or other parts of the Secretariat. Such redeployments would be presented in the revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly early next year. Meanwhile, it is proposed to finance the 14 posts (2 D-1, 2 P-5, 2 P-4 and 8 General Service posts) from general temporary assistance. A provision of $610,000 representing six work-months for each of these 14 posts is requested. Should there be any difficulty in identifying posts at the appropriate levels before 30 June 1993, a report would be submitted to the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

9. In addition to the staff resources proposed above, contributions from specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system would be sought through bilateral arrangements for the activities related to the three draft resolutions mentioned in this statement of programme budget implications.

10. It is also estimated that all substantive requirements for the preparation of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, as detailed in draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.47, could be met from the resources proposed for the new organizational structure for the follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The details of the proposed arrangements are discussed in section IV below.

11. Non-staff requirements, by object of expenditure are as follows:

	A/C.2/47/L.46	A/C.2/47/L.47 and A/C.2/47/L.61	Total
		United States dollars	
(a) Substantive support structure			
Consultants	596 000	72 000	668 000
Overtime	5 000	5 000	10 000
Travel of representatives	-	553 000	553 000
Travel of staff	150 000	50 000	200 000
Contractual services	-	8 000	8 000
Communications	35 000	20 000	55 000
Hospitality	6 000	-	6 000
Other general operating expenses	25 000	20 000	45 000
Supplies and materials	10 000	5 000	15 000
Furniture and equipment	40 000	-	40 000
Subtotal	867 000	733 000	1 600 000
(b) Public information	32 000	85 000	117 000
Total, (a) and (b)	899 000	818 000	1 717 000

12. The estimates of conference-servicing requirements referred to in paragraph 7 above ($2,553,400) were calculated on a full-cost basis. Those cost estimates for conference-servicing requirements are based on the assumption that no part of the conference-servicing requirements would be met from within the permanent conference-servicing capacity under section 41, Administration and management, of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 (A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1), and that additional resources would be required for temporary assistance for meetings. The extent to which the Organization's permanent capacity would need to be supplemented by temporary assistance resources can be determined only in the light of the calendar of conferences and meetings for 1992-1993. In accordance with established practice, provisions have been made in the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 not only for meetings already known at the time of the budget preparation, but also for meetings or extensions of such meetings that may be authorized subsequently, based on the pattern that has emerged over the previous five years. On that basis, it is estimated that no additional resources would be required under section 41 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 as a result of the adoption of the draft resolutions under consideration.

13. In sum, resources required for activities other than conference-servicing would amount to $2,327,000. An amount of $168,000 would be required for staff assessment under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equal amount of income under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

14. Taking into account the decision of the Secretary-General to establish three new Departments and his intention to submit revised estimates early next year, it is proposed to establish provisionally two new subsections - 11.G, International Convention to Combat Desertification, and 11.H, Arrangements for servicing the Commission on Sustainable Development and for the preparation of the Global Conference on Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, for recording the funds and expenditures related to the above-mentioned activities. It is recalled that only subsections 11.A, Office of the Director-General for Development and International Economic Cooperation, and 11.D, Regional Commissions New York Office, have been affected by the first phase of the restructuring. 3/

15. It will be recalled that, under the procedure established by the General Assembly in its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditures derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under the same procedure, if additional expenditures are proposed that exceed resources available from the contingency fund, those activities can be implemented only through redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modifications of projected activities. Otherwise, such additional activities will have to be deferred until a later biennium. A consolidated statement of all programme budget implications and revised estimates will be submitted to the Assembly towards the end of its current session.

16. In the event that the requested resources are not available from the contingency fund, these activities would have to be postponed, as provided for in the criteria for the use of the contingency fund adopted by the General Assembly in the annex to its resolution 42/211 of 21 December 1987.

17. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolutions A/C.2/47/L.46, A/C.2/47/L.47 and A/C.2/47/L.61, the proposed programme of work under section 11, Development and international economic cooperation, of the 1992-1993 programme budget would be revised as proposed in paragraph 6 above. In addition, an appropriation in the amount of $2,327,000 would be required for the biennium 1992-1993, broken down as follows:

	United States dollars
Section 11.G	1 097 000
Section 11.H	1 113 000
Section 31	117 000
Total	2 327 000

Moreover, an amount of $168,000 would be required for staff assessment under section 36, Staff assessment, to be offset by an equal amount of income under income section 1, Income from staff assessment.

II. PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/47/L.46, ENTITLED "ESTABLISHMENT OF AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE FOR THE ELABORATION OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION IN THOSE COUNTRIES EXPERIENCING SERIOUS DROUGHT AND/OR DESERTIFICATION, PARTICULARLY IN AFRICA"

18. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 2, 4, 6, 7, 9, 12 and 13 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly:

"2. Decides to establish under its auspices an Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the elaboration of an international convention to combat desertification in those countries experiencing serious drought and/or desertification, particularly in Africa, taking into account proposals that may be submitted by States participating in the negotiating process, with a view to finalizing such a convention by June 1994, and welcomes the candidature of Ambassador Bo Kjellen (Sweden) for the chairmanship of the Committee;

"...

"4. Also decides that the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee, in addition to an organizational session, shall hold five substantive sessions, each lasting for two weeks, which will be held at Geneva, Nairobi, New York and, in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 40/243, Paris; the dates of these sessions will be determined by the Committee at its organizational session, subject to review of the timetable at the end of each negotiating session and taking into account the schedule of other related meetings;

"...

"6. Decides that provisions shall be made for an organizational session of up to one week to be held in New York not later than February 1993 in order to organize the work of the Committee and to elect the Bureau, which shall consist of a chairman, three vice-chairmen and a rapporteur, each of the five regional groups being represented by one member;

"7. Requests the Secretary-General to establish as soon as possible an ad hoc secretariat of appropriate size and quality at Geneva, drawing, inter alia, on staff resources of the United Nations system in order to ensure that the ad hoc secretariat embodies requisite technical expertise to assist the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in the conduct of its mandate;

"...

"9. Decides that the Secretary-General shall appoint as head of the ad hoc secretariat a senior official of an appropriate level who shall act under the guidance of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee;

"...

"12. Decides to establish a multidisciplinary panel of experts to assist the ad hoc secretariat and, under its authority, to provide the necessary expertise in the scientific, technical, legal and other related fields, making full use of the resources and expertise within and available to Governments and/or organizations of the United Nations system dealing with drought and desertification;

"13. Decides that the negotiation process shall be funded through existing United Nations budgetary resources, without negatively affecting its programmed activities, and through voluntary contributions to a trust fund established specifically for that purpose for the duration of the negotiations and administered by the head of the ad hoc secretariat under the authority of the Secretary-General."

19. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee would be expected to hold four meetings in 1993 (operative paras. 4 and 6). The meetings would take place at a United Nations location and would be provided with translation and interpretation services in all six official languages. The organizational session of the Committee would last for four working days. The three substantive sessions of the Committee would last for 10 working days each.

20. It should be noted that in conformity with General Assembly resolution 40/243 of 18 December 1985, United Nations bodies shall meet at their respective headquarters. Bearing in mind that the draft resolution proposes that the established headquarters of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee be Geneva (operative para. 7), the holding of the sessions of the Committee in New York and Nairobi would require an exception to the arrangements established by resolution 40/243.

21. Should the General Assembly grant such an exception, the conference-servicing costs of the sessions of the Committee would amount to $1,606,600, broken down as follows:

(a) Organizational session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (New York, January 1993)

	United States dollars
(i) Pre-session documentation (50 pages, 10 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	57 400
(ii) Meeting servicing (Interpretation in A,C,E,F,R,S)	58 200
(iii) In-session documentation (30 pages, 10 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	37 800
(iv) Post-session documentation (25 pages, 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	25 300
Total	178 700

(b) Substantive sessions (Nairobi, New York, Geneva)

	Nairobi	New York	Geneva
	United States dollars		
(i) Pre-session documentation (For each session: 100 pages, 10 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	110 200	106 000	110 200
(ii) Meeting servicing (For each session: interpretation in A,C,E,F,R,S)	231 700	242 800	231 700
(iii) In-session documentation (For each session: 75 pages, 10 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	84 900	81 800	84 900
(iv) Post-session documentation (For each session: 50 pages, 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	51 900	49 800	51 900
Total	478 700	470 500	478 700

22. The ad hoc secretariat mentioned in operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution would become effective 1 January 1993 and would consist of one D-2, one D-1, one P-5, one P-4, one P-3 and four General Service posts.

23. The functions attached to the posts referred to above would be the following:

(a) The D-2 post would be for the head of the ad hoc secretariat;

(b) The D-1 post would be for a deputy head who would also be responsible for the organization and supervision of the substantive work;

(c) The P-5 post would be for a senior economic officer who would be responsible for organizing analyses related to the economic and social dimensions of combating desertification;

(d) The P-4 post would be for the legal officer who would assist in the analysis, drafting and advice on legal aspects of the Convention and related instruments;

(e) The P-3 post would be for an officer who would assist the head of the ad hoc secretariat and be responsible for documentation and conference planning. He or she would also help to organize and channel inputs from the numerous intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the areas of drought control and desertification.

24. As indicated in paragraphs 5 and 8 above, a D-2, a D-1, a P-4 and a P-3 post are available for temporary redeployment to the ad hoc secretariat, and it is proposed to finance the remaining posts of the interim secretariat (one P-5 and four General Service (Other Level) posts) from general temporary assistance. A provision of $230,000, representing six work-months for each of these five posts, is requested for this purpose.

25. The non-staff operational requirements of the ad hoc secretariat are estimated for 1993 as follows:

	United States dollars
Overtime	5 000
Travel of staff	150 000
Communications	35 000
Hospitality	6 000
Other general operating expenses	25 000
Supplies and materials	10 000
Furniture and equipment	40 000
Total	271 000

26. The total additional requirements for the year 1993 in relation to activities of the ad hoc secretariat would thus amount to $501,000.

27. As regards the costs of activities of the multidisciplinary panel of experts (operative para. 12 of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.46), in the absence of specific guidelines from the General Assembly, the following assumptions have been made: (a) the panel would be composed of 12 experts appointed by the Secretary-General; (b) during 1993, the experts would assist the ad hoc

secretariat in the elaboration of draft documents to be submitted to the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee; a three-month period for each expert would include the work undertaken in the home country and participation in four sessions of the panel in Geneva; (c) the four sessions of the panel would be of three to four working days each; (d) the 12 experts would serve under special service agreements and be remunerated as consultants at the P-4 level. The resultant overall cost of the panel is estimated at $596,000:

	United States dollars
(a) Remuneration (36 work-months at P-4 level)	356 000
(b) Travel costs relating to the panel sessions ($5,000 per expert per session)	240 000
Total	596 000

28. Press coverage of the substantive sessions of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee in 1993 would be provided by the Department of Public Information. Related requirements in New York would be absorbed. The press coverage of the sessions in Nairobi and Geneva would require travel funds for two staff members (one press officer and one editor) plus some operational funds. Those costs are estimated at $32,000.

29. In summary, the additional requirements for the year 1993 arising from the draft resolution under consideration are as follows:

	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total
	United States dollars		
(a) Substantive requirements:			
(i) Ad hoc secretariat	230 000	271 000	501 000
(ii) Multidisciplinary panel of experts	-	596 000	596 000
(iii) Information activities	-	32 000	32 000
Total (a)	230 000	899 000	1 129 000
(b) Conference-servicing requirements			1 606 600

In addition, an amount of $70,000 would be required for staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount of income from staff assessment.

III. PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/47/L.61, ENTITLED "INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS TO FOLLOW UP THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT", AS ORALLY AMENDED

30. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 2, 6, 9, 11, 15, 16, 20, 24, 29, 32 and 33 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would:

"1. Endorses the recommendations on international institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development as contained in chapter 38 of Agenda 21, 2/ particularly those on the establishment of a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development;

"2. Requests the Economic and Social Council, at its organizational session for 1993, to set up a high-level Commission on Sustainable Development as a functional commission of the Council in accordance with Article 68 of the Charter of the United Nations in order to ensure the effective follow-up of the Conference, as well as to enhance international cooperation and rationalize the intergovernmental decision-making capacity for the integration of environment and development issues and to examine the progress of the implementation of Agenda 21 at the national, regional and international levels, fully guided by the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development 4/ and all other aspects of the Conference, in order to achieve sustainable development in all countries;

"...

"6. Recommends that the Commission consist of representatives of 53 States elected by the Economic and Social Council from among the Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies for three-year terms, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. The regional allocation of seats could be the same as in the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, as decided in Economic and Social Council decision 1992/222 of 29 May 1992. Representation should be at a high level, including ministerial participation. Other Member States of the United Nations and its specialized agencies, as well as other observers of the United Nations, may participate in the Commission in the capacity of observer, in accordance with established practice;

"...

"9. Recommends that the Commission on Sustainable Development shall meet once a year for a period of two to three weeks. The first substantive session of the Commission will be held in New York in 1993, without prejudice to the venue of its future sessions in Geneva and/or New York;

"...

"11. Recommends that in 1993, as a transitional measure, the Commission hold a short organizational session in New York. At that session, the Commission will elect the Bureau of the Commission, consisting of a Chairperson, three Vice-Chairpersons and a Rapporteur, from each of the regional groups, decide on the agenda of its first substantive session and consider all other organizational issues as may be necessary. The agenda of the organizational session of the Commission shall be decided on by the Economic and Social Council at its organizational session of 1993;

"...

"15. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, for each session of the Commission, in accordance with the programme of work mentioned in paragraph 12 above and in accordance with its organizational modalities, analytical reports containing information on relevant activities to implement Agenda 21, progress achieved and emerging issues to be addressed;

"16. Also request the Secretary-General to prepare for the first substantive session of the Commission, reports containing information and proposals, as appropriate, on the following issues:

"(a) Initial financial commitments, financial flows and arrangements to give effect to the decisions of the Conference from all available funding sources and mechanisms;

"(b) Progress achieved in facilitating and promoting transfer of environmentally sound technologies, cooperation and capacity-building;

"(c) Progress in the incorporation of recommendations of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the activities of international organizations and measures undertaken by the Administrative Committee on Coordination to ensure that sustainable development principles are incorporated in programmes and processes within the United Nations system;

"(d) Ways in which, upon request, the United Nations system and bilateral donors are assisting countries, particularly developing countries, in the preparation of national reports and national Agenda 21 action plans;

"(e) Urgent and major emerging issues that may be addressed in the course of the high-level meeting;

"...

"20. Emphasizes that the ongoing restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields should take into account the organizational modalities for the Commission on Sustainable Development, with a view to optimizing the work of the Commission and other intergovernmental United Nations bodies dealing with matters related to environment and development;

"...

"24. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on Sustainable Development, at its substantive session of 1993, recommendations and proposals for improving coordination of programmes related to development data that exist within the United Nations system ...;

"...

"29. Endorses the view of the Secretary-General that the High-level Advisory Board should consist of eminent persons broadly representative of all regions of the world, with recognized expertise on the broad spectrum of issues to be dealt by the Commission on Sustainable Development, drawn from relevant scientific disciplines, industry, finance and other major non-governmental constituencies, as well as various disciplines related to environment and development, and that due account should also be given to gender balance;

"...

"32. Takes note of the decision of the Secretary-General to establish at the Under-Secretary-General level a new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, and in this context calls upon the Secretary-General to establish a clearly identifiable, highly qualified and competent Secretariat support structure to provide support for the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development and the High-level Advisory Board, taking into account gender balance at all levels, the paramount importance of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity and the importance of recruiting the staff on as wide a geographical basis as possible in accordance with Acticles 8 and 101 of the Charter of the United Nations and the following criteria:

"(a) It should draw on the expertise gained and the working methods and organizational structures developed during the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"...

"(c) The Secretariat, which would be located in New York, should ensure easy access of all countries to its services and effective interaction with secretariats of other international organizations,

financial institutions and relevant conventions whose secretariats have been established definitely or on an interim basis, and should have a relevant office in Geneva to establish close links with activities related to follow-up of legal instruments, signed at or mandated by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, and to liaise with agencies in the fields of environment and development. The secretariat should also have a liaison office in Nairobi, on the basis of UNCED arrangements;

"(d) It should be headed by a high-level official designated by the Secretary-General to work closely and directly with him and with assured access to him, as well as with the heads of relevant organizations of the United Nations system, including the multilateral financial and trade organizations, dealing with the implementation of Agenda 21;

"(e) It should be funded from the United Nations regular budget and depend to the maximum extent possible upon existing budgetary resources;

"(f) It should be supplemented or reinforced, as appropriate, by secondments from other relevant bodies and agencies of the United Nations system, especially the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank, taking into account the need to ensure that the work programmes of those organizations are not negatively affected, and national Governments, as well as by appropriate specialists on limited-term contracts from outside the United Nations in such areas as may be required;

"...

"(h) Sustainable development should be integrated and coordinated with other economic, social and environmental activities of the Secretariat. Organizational decisions should be consistent with consensus resolutions in the context of the restructuring and revitalization of the United Nations in the economic, social and related fields;

"33. Requests the Secretary-General to make the necessary interim secretariat arrangements to ensure adequate preparations and support for the first session of the Commission on Sustainable Development and the work of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development".

31. The following course of action would be taken by the Secretariat:

(a) Activities outlined in the above operative paragraphs of the draft resolution would represent a significant expansion of international cooperation in the field of environment and development. This will be reflected in the revision of the programme narrative in a number of programmes of the medium term for the period 1992-1997. These revisions would be presented to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

(b) The creation of a new intergovernmental mechanism would entail a new programme narrative and an allocation of related resources in the programme budget. For 1993, it is proposed to introduce a new subsection H, Arrangements for servicing the Commission on Sustainable Development and for the preparation of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, within section 11, Development and international economic cooperation. The new programme narrative is reflected in paragraph 6 of the summary above;

(c) The proposals contained in paragraph 32 of the draft resolution call for the creation of a new organizational unit within the Secretariat to be responsible for implementation of the new activities. Pending the submission of revised estimates early next year, and in line with the provisions of operative paragraph 33, interim secretariat arrangements based on the structure of the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development are proposed below. These arrangements aim at ensuring that the unique expertise in the field of environment and sustainable development developed over the period of preparation of the Conference would be preserved and utilized for the follow-up activities to the Conference.

32. A new Commission on Sustainable Development would have to be provided with conference-servicing coverage of all its proceedings on the basis of established United Nations standards; and since the Commission would be a functional body of the Economic and Social Council, travel expenses, but not subsistence costs, would be reimbursed by the United Nations.

33. It is assumed that the organizational session of the Commission would be of three days' duration and would be held in February 1993 and that the first substantive session would be of three weeks' duration and would be held in August 1993. The related conference-servicing requirements at full cost for the biennium 1992-1993 would amount to $620,400, broken down as follows:

	United States dollars
(a) Organizational session	
(i) Pre-session documentation (10 pages, 2 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	11 600
(ii) Meeting servicing (Interpretation in A,C,E,F,R,S)	34 900
(iii) In-session documentation (25 pages, 5 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	28 600
(iv) Post-session documentation (10 pages, 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	10 800
Total	85 900

		United States dollars
(b)	First substantive session	
(i)	Pre-session documentation (200 pages, 10 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	203 900
(ii)	Meeting servicing (Interpretation in A,C,E,F,R,S)	174 700
(iii)	In-session documentation (50 pages, 10 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	57 400
(iv)	Post-session documentation (100 pages, 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	98 500
	Total	534 500

34. It is estimated that the travel costs for the 53 members of the Commission to attend its two sessions in 1993 would amount to $235,000 and represent additional requirements for the current biennium. Furthermore, in the light of operative paragraph 6, a provision for travel in the amount of $30,000 would be required for observers receiving standing invitations to participate in the United Nations meetings under the terms of resolution 3280 (XXIX).

35. The costs relating to activities for the High-level Advisory Board have been estimated on the assumption that the proposals by the Secretary-General in his report on institutional arrangements to follow up the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development relating to the composition and modalities of the functioning of the Board would be approved by the General Assembly. 5/ It was further assumed that: (a) the Board would consist of 24 eminent persons, selected on a global basis and appointed by the Secretary-General in their personal capacity; the members would thus be entitled to travel and daily subsistence allowance costs to be borne by the United Nations; (b) the Board would have its first session of up to eight working days' duration in 1993 immediately before the first substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development; and (c) the members of the Board would also participate in that session of the Commission to provide expert advice. On this basis, it is estimated that the cost of the activities of the High-level Advisory Board in 1993 would amount to $288,000, broken down as follows:

		United States dollars
(a)	Travel costs ($3,300 per person)	79 200
(b)	Daily subsistence allowance for 30 days ($8,700 per person)	208 800
	Total	288 000

36. It should be noted that a provision of $157,000 has been made in the 1992-1993 programme budget under section 39, Department of Economic and Social Development, for travel of the members of the Committee for Development Planning to attend its twenty-ninth session in 1993. Should the General Assembly decide to merge the Committee with the Advisory Board, the above provision could be used to offset partially the costs entailed by the Advisory Board.

37. The interim secretariat support structure would be based on the existing secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. The staff resources of that unit were approved under section 11.C of the 1992-1993 programme budget, as follows: one USG, one ASG, two D-2, five D-1, two P-5, six P-4, three P-3 and 20 General Service posts. All these posts have been financed under general temporary assistance arrangements. Of these posts, two D-2, four D-1, two P-5, five P-4, two P-3 and 14 General Service posts were approved for the period of seven months in 1992 and were to be discontinued effective 1 August 1992. The remaining posts were authorized by the General Assembly through December 1992. Following a review of the need for additional resources after the Conference for the remaining period of 1992, in order to accommodate the workload entailed by follow-up activities to be undertaken until the current session of the General Assembly, a request for the extension through December 1992 of five additional Professional posts (one D-2, two D-1, one P-5, one P-4) and three additional General Service posts was submitted to and granted by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in July 1992, on the condition that no additional appropriation would be approved and that the related costs would be financed from within existing resources under section 11.C or, if need be, from other sections of the programme budget for 1992-1993.

38. The current staffing resources of this Unit thus comprise one Under-Secretary-General post, which is vacant as of 1 September 1992, one Assistant Secretary-General, one D-2, three D-1, one P-5, two P-4, one P-3 and nine General Service posts.

39. It is estimated that, as an interim measure, the following staff resources would be required to accommodate during 1993 the workload arising from the draft resolution: two D-1, one P-5, two P-4 and four General Service posts. These core posts would be integrated into the new Department. Furthermore, it would be the intention of the Secretary-General to assign to the above organizational unit the responsibility for implementing initial activities pertaining to the preparation of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

40. Under the overall supervision of the head of the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development, the functions attached to these posts would be as follows:

(a) One D-1: responsible for coordinating a wide range of the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development during the interim period in 1993, including the coordination of various

substantive reports required from the Secretary-General for the first substantive session of the Commission on Sustainable Development;

(b) One D-1: responsible for coordinating the preparatory work for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States in 1993, including the preparation of the reports required for the first session of the Preparatory Committee to the Conference;

(c) The P-5: responsible in particular for initiating preparation of the reports on the follow-up activities to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in the United Nations system and for preparation and servicing of sessions of the Inter-Agency Committee on Sustainable Development;

(d) One P-4: responsible for the preparation of documentation, conference planning and liaison with the Office of Conference Services, the Office of Legal Affairs and other relevant units of the Secretariat and the permanent missions of Member States on issues concerning the meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1993;

(e) One P-4: assisting the Principal Officer in the preparation of the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States.

41. The posts listed above, and, if necessary, additional staff resources, will be identified and presented in the revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly early next year. Meanwhile, it is proposed to finance these posts from general temporary assistance. A provision of $380,000, representing six work-months for each of these posts, is requested for this purpose.

42. In addition to the staff resources, the following non-staff operational funds would be required provisionally for a period of six months in 1993:

	United States dollars
Consultancy (9 work-months at P-4 level)	72 000
Overtime	5 000
Travel of staff	50 000
Contractual services	8 000
Communications	20 000
Other general operating expenses	20 000
Supplies and materials	5 000
Total	180 000

43. It is expected that the secretariat arrangements for the new Department will be finalized in the coming few months and will be reflected in the revised estimates to be submitted to the General Assembly at its resumed forty-seventh session, to be held in early 1993. It is on that basis that a six-month provision for non-staff requirements is requested at this stage.

44. Thus, the total additional requirements for the organizational unit discussed above would amount to $560,000.

45. A specific programme of information activities would be carried out by the Department of Public Information, including media liaison and public outreach and production of new information materials on sustainable development and follow-up to the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development. These activities would include, inter alia, the following:

	United States dollars
Special press kit (First anniversary Earth Summit/first session, Commission on Sustainable Development in E,F,S)	75 000
Video material: United Nations in Action (two special Earth Summit anniversary items)	10 000
Total	85 000

In addition, the Department of Public Information would provide press, radio and television coverage of the session of the Commissions in 1993 within available resources.

46. In summary, the additional requirements for the year 1993 arising from draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.61 would be as follows:

	Staff costs	Non-staff costs	Total
		United States dollars	
(a) Substantive requirements			
(i) Travel of delegates and observers to the Commission's sessions	-	265 000	265 000
(ii) High-level Advisory Board	-	288 000	288 000
(iii) Secretariat support structure	380 000	180 000	560 000
(iv) Public information	-	85 000	85 000
Total (a)	380 000	818 000	1 198 000
(b) Conference-servicing requirements			620 400

In addition, an amount of $98,000 would be required for staff assessment, to be offset by an equivalent amount of income under income section I, Income from staff assessment.

IV. PROGRAMME BUDGET IMPLICATIONS OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.2/47/L.47, ENTITLED "CONVENING OF A GLOBAL CONFERENCE ON THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES", AS ORALLY AMENDED

47. Under the terms of operative paragraphs 1, 6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 16 and 19 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly:

"1. Decides to convene in April 1994 the first Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which shall be of two weeks' duration and shall have the highest possible level of participation;

"...

"6. Further requests the Secretary-General of the United Nations to prepare a report for the substantive session of the Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, containing a review of existing global and regional programmes of action for their applicability to and their combined effect on the sustainable development of small island developing States, with specific recommendations on any changes to those programmes of action which may be needed to establish greater consistency with the principles of Agenda 21 with respect to the sustainable development of small island developing States;

"...

"8. Decides to establish a Preparatory Committee for the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States, which shall be open to all the participants listed in paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 46/168, in accordance with the established practice of the Assembly;

"10. Decides that the Preparatory Committee shall hold a two-day organizational session at United Nations Headquarters not later than April 1993 for the following purposes:

"(a) The election of a Chairman and other members of its Bureau, comprising four Vice-Chairmen, including a Rapporteur, giving due regard to equitable geographical representation;

"(b) The organization of its work;

"11. Further decides that the Preparatory Committee shall hold a substantive session of two weeks' duration in August 1993 at United Nations Headquarters, at which time it shall:

"(a) Draft the provisional agenda for the Conference, in accordance with the provisions of the present resolution, on the basis of recommendations to be submitted by the Secretary-General;

"(b) Receive and consider the substantive contributions referred to in paragraphs 13, 14 and 15 of the present resolution;

"(c) Prepare draft decisions to be submitted to the Conference for consideration and adoption;

"...

"13. Requests the Secretary-General to provide, within the context of the administrative arrangements to be put in place to coordinate the implementation of Agenda 21 and the servicing of the Commission on Sustainable Development, and in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other relevant organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, a focal point with a senior official at an appropriate level and with the specialized expertise necessary to service fully the preparations for and holding of the Conference and such follow-up action as may result therefrom;

"14. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report to be submitted to the Preparatory Committee at its organizational session, containing recommendations on an adequate preparatory process, taking into account the provisions of the present resolution and the views expressed by Governments during the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

"16. Stresses the importance of holding regional technical meetings on the sustainable development of small island developing States as a means of preparing substantive contributions to the Conference, and invites relevant regional and subregional bodies, in close cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other agencies, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system, to organize such meetings as soon as practicable, preferably in the first half of 1993;

"...

"19. Decides that the funds necessary for the preparatory process and the Conference itself should, subject to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, be made available within the programme budget without adversely affecting other ongoing activities and without prejudice to the provision of extrabudgetary resources;".

48. Should the General Assembly adopt the draft resolution, the Preparatory Committee for the Conference would hold an organizational session in February 1993 and a substantive session in August 1993 (operative paras. 10 and 11). These meetings would take place at United Nations Headquarters and would be provided with translation and interpretation services in all six official languages. The organizational session of the Committee would last for two working days. The substantive session would last for 10 working days. The conference-servicing requirements for those sessions are estimated at $326,400, broken down as follows:

	United States dollars
(a) Organizational session	
(i) Pre-session documentation (10 pages, 2 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	11 600
(ii) Meeting servicing (Interpretation in A,C,E,F,R,S)	23 400
(iii) In-session documentation (20 pages, 5 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	23 700
(iv) Post-session documentation (10 pages, 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	10 800
Total	69 500
(b) Substantive session	
(i) Pre-session documentation (50 pages, 2 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	50 700
(ii) Meeting servicing (Interpretation in A,C,E,F,R,S)	116 400
(iii) In-session documentation (35 pages, 7 documents in A,C,E,F,R,S)	40 000
(iv) Post-session documentation (50 pages, 1 document in A,C,E,F,R,S)	49 800
Total	256 900

49. As regards the secretariat support of the preparatory process for the Conference, including participation in the regional activities during 1993, it is estimated that 24 work-months of Professional staff, including 12 work-months at the D-1 level and 12 work-months at the P-4 level, and

30 work-months at the General Service level would be required. These resources should be supplemented, as necessary, from the overall resources of the new Department for Policy Coordination and Sustainable Development. In addition, $100,000 would be required for various operational needs in connection with the preparatory activities, including travel of staff, general operating expenses and supplies. An outside expert for preparation of the report called for in operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution of up to 4 work-months of consultancy at the P-4 level would also be required. The responsibility for secretariat support to the activities of the Preparatory Committee and other activities in the context of the preparation of the Conference would be given to the organizational unit discussed in section III above. On that understanding, no additional resources for substantive servicing of the preparatory process over and above those already discussed in the present statement in connection with the other draft resolutions under consideration would be required for the implementation of draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.47 in 1993.

50. The Department of Public Information would provide press coverage of the organizational and substantive sessions of the Preparatory Committee in 1993. The resultant requirements would be accommodated from within existing resources of the Department under section 31 of the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993.

51. In summary, the conference-servicing requirements for 1993 at full cost arising from draft resolution A/C.2/47/L.47 would amount to $326,400.

Notes

1/ See A/47/753.

2/ A/CONF.151/26 (vols. I, II and Corr.1, and III).

3/ See A/C.5/47/2 and Corr.1.

4/ See A/CONF.151/26 (vol. I), chap. I.

5/ See A/47/598, paras. 57-60.